

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-27 are pending herein. Claim 15 has been amended to correct a minor informality. New independent claim 26 has been added as supported by Figure 1 and the specification at pages 20-21, for example. New independent claim 27 has been added as supported by Figure 9 and the specification at pages 33-34, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

Primary Examiner Santiago and Examiner Reilley are thanked for courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned representative during a telephonic interview on October 14, 2005. The substance of that interview has been incorporated into the following remarks.

1. Claim 15 was objected to because of a minor informality. Claim 15 has been amended to correct the informality.
2. Claim 5 was rejected under §112, second paragraph as indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. As discussed during the interview, claim 5 clearly recites the features shown in Fig. 2, for example. The Examiners agreed during the interview that the §112 rejection of claim 5 would be withdrawn.
3. Claims 1-4, 8-17, 19, 20 and 22-24 were rejected under §103(a) over Kano in view of Okamoto for the reasons detailed on pages 3 through 9 of the Office Action. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In support of this rejection, the PTO relied upon the emitter in Fig. 10 of Kano, and argued that one skilled in the art would have found it obvious to use that structure in a vacuum, as in the case of the emitter shown in Fig. 2 of Kano. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The emitter disclosed in Fig. 2 of Kano uses a vacuum gap through which emitted electrons travel before impinging upon a fluorescent body. The vacuum gap facilitates movement of the electrons from the electrodes to the fluorescent body. The

emitter in Fig. 10 of Kano, however, is encapsulated for the very purpose of not requiring the use of a vacuum (see Col. 21, lines 38-39). During the telephonic interview, Applicants' representative argued that there would have been no reason to use a vacuum or go to the expense of creating a vacuum for an encapsulated device, such as shown in Fig. 10 of Kano. The Examiners stated that they understood why a vacuum was not applicable to the emitter of Fig. 10 of Kano and agreed to withdraw the rejection.

Since Okamoto does not overcome the deficiencies of Kano, claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Further, since claims 2-4, 8-17, 19, 20 and 22-24 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, those claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

4. Claims 5 and 6 were rejected under §103(a) over Kano in view of Okamoto, and further in view of Oohata; claim 7 was rejected under §103(a) over Kano in view of Okamoto, further in view of Oohata, and further in view of Matsuzaki; claims 18 and 21 were rejected under §103(a) over Kano in view of Okamoto and further in view of Doll; and claim 25 was rejected under §103(a) over Kano in view of Okamoto and further in view of Files. These rejections are respectfully traversed, because all of these claims ultimately depend from claim 1, and claim 1 is patentable for the reasons explained above.

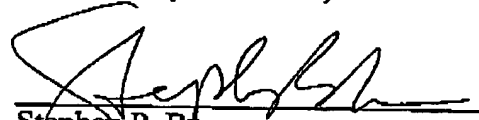
If Examiner Rielley believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, she is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

October 31, 2005

Date


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